

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 11, 2005.

Claims 1-33 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-33.

The present Response amends claims 1, 12 and 23 and adds new claims 34-36 leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-36. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 16, 18, 19-21, 13-24, 27, 29-31 and 32 are rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Aldis et al, U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0039916. Claims 3, 11, 14, 22, 25-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldis et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0039916 in view of Ramachandran et al., U.S. Patent Application Publications 2003/0083998. The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 1, 12 and 23 as amended read as follows:

1. A method comprising:
  - maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines;
  - accessing a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank, wherein the software license is associated with a first license key; and
  - upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key.
12. A license management system comprising:
  - a memory adapted to store a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines; and
  - a processor adapted to provide a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank wherein software associated with first license key license is associated with a first license key and wherein the processor is adapted to upgrade/downgrade the software including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key.
23. A computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of:
  - maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines;

in response to a user accessing a web application, allowing the user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank wherein the software license is associated with a first license key; and

upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key.

The claims now state that the software license is associated with a first license key and software associated with first license key is upgraded/downgraded including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key. Such limitations are not shown, suggested or given a motivation for in the cited references. For this reason, claims 1, 12, and 23 are believed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 2-11, 13-22 and 24-36 are dependent upon these independent claims and for that reason, and because of the additional limitations of these claims, these dependent claims are believed to be allowable. In particular, claims 34-36 deal with a situation where the software is downgraded and such a limitation is not shown or suggested any of the cited references.

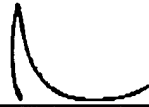
For the above discussed reasons, claims 1-36 are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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